



# GAO Report to U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

**Seafood Fraud: FDA Program  
Changes and Better Collaboration  
among Key Federal Agencies Could  
Improve Detection and Prevention**

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<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09258.pdf>



# Purpose

- Review –
- Actions agencies take to detect and prevent seafood fraud
- Extent of agency collaboration to detect and prevent seafood fraud



# Types of Fraud

- Transshipping to avoid customs duties
- Species substitution
- Over-treating to increase water content
- Adding excessive ice to increase weight
- Short-weighting



# Findings

- CBP reviews import documentation to detect schemes to avoid paying customs duties
- NMFS checks for fraud with the voluntary, fee-for-service inspection program



# Findings

- FDA addresses species substitution with the *Seafood List*
- Seafood HACCP regulation focuses on food safety, not economic fraud
- Oversight is focused on food safety



- Some instances of fraud can result in food safety issues
  - Species substitution
  - Transshipping to avoid food safety controls (import alerts)
- Agencies do not effectively collaborate to share information or coordinate resources



# GAO Recommendations

- Amend Seafood HACCP regulations to include control of economic fraud issues
- Allow for public comment on changes to *Seafood List*
- Update guidance on seafood labeling for FALCPA



# GAO Recommendations

- Develop goals, strategies and mechanisms for information and resource sharing among agencies
- Create uniform federal library of seafood species standards

